

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12884 021720Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-05 IO-14 ACDA-10
USIE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CU-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05
OC-06 CCO-00 AF-10 DHA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 /125 W
-----047214 021734Z /44

O 021618Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7929
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAIRO 12884

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, LY
SUBJECT: EGYPT/LIBYA: PROPAGANDA CEASE-FIRE OFF

1. WHATEVER GOE RESTRAINSTS HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON HOSTILE PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONCERNING EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS HAVE NOW APPARENTLY BEEN LIFTED. EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER SALEM, SPEAKING TO PEPPLS ASSEMBLY AFTERNOON AUGUST 2, DESCRIBED LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI AS "EXAMPLE OF ARAB APOSTASY" FOR ACTS OF SABOTAGE UNDERTAKEN TO CARRY OUT "MAD DREAMS." SALEM SAID QADHAFI STANDS "AS MODEL FOR TERRORISM", THREATENING SECURITY OF INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES. DOING THIS, HE CONTINUED, QADHAFI WENT SO FAR AS TO PUSH SITUATION TO MILITARY CLASHES.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12884 021720Z

2. P.M. CALLED QADHAFI "SMALL DESPOT" WHO IS CONTINUING "BLOODY LIQUIDATIONS" IN LIBYA, AS REFLECTED BY MEASURES AGAINST STUDENTS AND OFFICERS. SALEM CLAIMED THERE NOTHING BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN PEOPLE; BOTH ARE QADHAFI VICTIMS.

3. TURNING TO DESCRIPTION OF QADHAFI MORALS, P.M. SAID HE IS "SICK MAN GOVERNED BY VACILLATING MOODS." QADHAFI MAKES PROMISES

HE DOESN'T KEEP; BETRAYS HIS PLEDGES; JOINS ALLIANCES AND THEN STABS PARTNER. ACCORDING SALEM, NO ONE TRUSTS QADHAFI AND HE IN TURN, TRUSTS NO ONE. IN SUM, QADHAFI IS "MEGALOMANIC" WHO JOINED FORCES WITH SOVIET UNION UNDER ILLUSION THEY WOULD HELP HIM REALIZE HIS DREAMS BUT, INSTEAD, HAS BECOME SOVIET AGENT.

4. IN THIS GUISE, QADHAFI HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONTAIN EGYPT AND ENCIRCLE IT WITH HOSTILE STATES. LIBYA HAS BECOME A SOVIET BASE FROM WHICH SOVIET SCHEMES WHICH THREATEN ARAB AND NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE LAUNCHED. SALEM DECRIED HYPOCRISY OF QADHAFI STANDS, SINCE, IN PERIOD PRIOR TO SOVIET EXPULSION FROM EGYPT, QADHAFI HAD ATTACKED SADAT FOR HIS RELATIONS WITH ATHEISTIC-COMMUNISTS.

5. P.M. SAID QADHAFI, FOLLOWING OCTOBER WAR, GUILTY OF FIVE BASIC CHARGES: (A) HE WORKED TO ESTABLISH REJECTIONIST FRON AND THUS DEPRIVE EGYPT OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION; (B) HE SENT SABOTEURS TO EGYPT AND ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT EGYPTIAN AGENTS; (C) HE TRIED TO ENCIRCLE EGYPT WITH ENEMIES; (D) HE ATTEMPTED TO DEPRIVE EGYPT, AND OTHER ARABS, OF AFRICAN SUPPORT THROUGH HIS EFFORTS UNDERMINE AFRICAN-ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE; AND (E) HE ATTEMPTED TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN ARAB STATES, AGAIN EN EFFORT TO PREVENT THEM FROM SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTION. FURTHER, SALEM CHARGED THAT QADHAFI HAD FINANCED SECTARIAN STRIFE IN LEBANON AND HAD FOSTERED 28 SEPARATE TERRORIST ACTS IN EGYPT, INCLUDING (UN-SPECIFIED) ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATIONS.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 12884 021720Z

6. P.M. SAID THAT QADHAFI HAD TURNED LIBYA, AGAINST THE WILL OF ITS PEOPLE, INTO A SOVIET BASE. LIBYA HAS BECOME HAVEN FOR HIRED TERRORISTS AND MERCENARIES. LIBYAN FUNDS NOW USED TO SERVE INTERESTS OF BIGGER POWER, QADHAFI'S MASTERS, SOVIET UNION.

7. FOR EGYPT'S PART, SALEM MAINTAINED, IT CONDEMNS ANY INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS BY ANY POWER. EGYPT DOES NOT APPROVE OF PRESENCE OF MAJOR POWER ON EGYPTIAN BORDER. EGYPT WILL COUNTER FIRMLY ANY INTERVENTION IN SUDAN, OR ONE WHICH THREATENS SOURCES OF NILE. EGYPT, HOWEVER, HAS NO TERRITORIAL OR MONETARY AMBITIONS IN LIBYA.

8. FINALLY, SALEM DENIED MANY EGYPTIANS IN LIBYA ILLTREATED. ONLY FEW INSTANCES HAVE OCCURRED; THEY FOSTERED BY QADHAFI AGENTS AND NOT LIBYAN PEOPLE. LIBYA NEEDS ITS EGYPTIAN WORKERS. PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO REPLACE THEM FAILED. SALEM ESTIMATED 220,000 EGYPTIANS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY LIBYA BUT SAID MANY NOW IN EGYPT ON ANNUAL LEAVE. QUESTION OF THEIR RETURN IS UP TO THEM. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, EGYPT FULLY CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD THEY CHOOSE TO RETURN.

9. P.M. TOLD PEOPLES ASSEMBLY HE WOULD LEAVE EXPLANATION OF
RECENT EVENTS TO MINWAR GAMASSI.
EILTS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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